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To: History Coordinators 1680
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This is the first issue of the year.

Progress on Projects:

1. History of the U.S. Forest Service. Dr. Harold Steen of the Forest History Society, Santa Cruz, California, is writing this for us under a cooperative agreement. After 2½ years of examining historical sources, he began writing the first draft in January, and completed 10 of the 12 chapters in May. The chapters, with a revised outline, have been sent to various persons for review and comment, including historians, natural resource specialists, and Forest Service retirees. Comment has generally been favorable, with appreciation for the heavy research job involved, and with its numerous references to original sources. Of course, in a single volume, many developments have to be compressed. It is expected that important segments of Forest Service history will be treated individually and more comprehensively in future projects sponsored by the History Section.

Special permission has been received from the Government Printing Office to have this book published by a university press. Dr. Steen is well along in negotiations with the University of Washington Press, and publication is scheduled for mid-1976 in time for the centennial of Federal forestry. (The first Federal forest agent, Benjamin Hough, took office August 30, 1876. This was the predecessor of the U.S. Forest Service.)

2. History of Tree Planting in the Great Plains. Dr. Wilmon Droze, historian and Provost of Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas, is writing about this spectacular success story, also under a cooperative agreement with the Forest Service. He has incorporated and expanded the late Paul A. Roberts' unfinished "History of the Shelterbelt Project." The story begins with the early planting efforts by settlers in the Prairie and Great Plains regions, about 100 years ago. Many of these States then offered subsidies and tax rebates for tree planting. Considerable planting was done in the 1870's and 1890's. The new book covers in detail the laborious conversion into reality of the dream of a vast Shelterbelt in the windswept grasslands region by the U.S. Forest Service under the stimulus of President Franklin Roosevelt in the late 1930's.

There was spirited debate among foresters and other scientists, as well as Congress, the press, and the public, over the feasibility of the daring project. Detailed studies

were made under Chiefs Robert Stuart and Ferdinand Silcox, and the Forest Service ultimately endorsed a modified project in 1934. Local labor was used, through the Works Progress Administration (WPA), to give maximum aid to rural areas hard hit by the Great Depression. Eight out of the 10 chapters have been written, and the final (fourth) draft of the earliest chapters are now finished. The book will also be published in time for the centennial in 1976, by Texas Woman's University.

The official reviewers for this Shelterbelt book project have been: Henry Clepper, former executive secretary, Society of American Foresters, and former managing editor, Journal of Forestry; Harold Pinkett, Chief, Natural Resources Branch, National Archives; Wayne Rasmussen, Chief Historian, U.S. Department of Agriculture; Henry Lobenstein, U.S. Forest Service, retired, who was on the staff of the Prairie States Forestry Project, as it was officially called by the Forest Service; Paul Slabaugh, retired head of the Northern Plains Shelterbelt Laboratory at Bottineau, North Dakota; Ralph Read, project leader, environmental forestry, central and southern Great Plains, Lincoln, Nebraska; and Karl Wenger, who just retired as Director of the Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Fort Collins, Colorado.

The list of original reviewers for the History of the Forest Service also included Clepper, Pinkett, and Rasmussen. Others were: Richard E. McArdle, former Chief, Forest Service; Samuel Dana, retired Dean, School of Natural Resources, University of Michigan, and former Director, Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, Forest Service; Philip Thornton, Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry; Chester Shields, Associate Deputy Chief for Administration, and Chairman, History Steering Committee; Vernon Carstensen, History Department, University of Washington; and Wilmon Droze, Provost, Texas Woman's University. The manuscript for this overall history was also sent to numerous other forestry authorities and other historians.

3. Regional Oral History Office, Bancroft Library, University of California. We have received nine miscellaneous items during the past year, of which we sponsored the final processing of several, including the following:

Interviews, correspondence, and writings of Earle Clapp, former Chief, Forest Service; and Raymond Marsh, former Assistant Chief. . . Interviews with Paul Roberts, former Director Prairie States Forestry Project (Shelterbelt), on forestry issues and legislation to 1951; Evan Kelley, former Regional Forester, Region 1, on his RF experience; and John Keller, close associate of Gifford Pinchot in the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters, on his recollection of Pinchot. (Bound as one book.)

Stuart B. Show, former Regional Forester, on the National Forests in California. . . The Eddy Tree Breeding Station (now the Western Forest Genetics Lab) at Placeville. . . Statement of T. T. Swift, former supervisor of the Tonto National Forest, on his examination of the fraudulent Cameron mineral claims which were used to collect tolls from tourists along the Bright Angel Trail in the Grand Canyon (about 1915) . . . Still to come are volumes on Edward Crafts, former Deputy Chief, Forest Service, on "Congress and the Forest Service, 1907-62" and the "Redwood National Park;" Leon F. Kneipp, former Assistant Chief for land acquisition and planning; and Edward I. Kotok, former Director, Forest Service's California Experiment Station, and former Assistant Chief, Forest Service, for State and Private Forestry, and for Forest Research. A volume of recollections by old friends of John Muir has also been

eceived.

4. History of Forest Service Research: Development of a National Program. This 132-page summary of forest research trends in the Department of Agriculture, 1876-1970, was prepared early in 1974 by Harold Storey, retired Associate Deputy Chief for Research, under contract with the History Office. The final draft was duplicated in May 1975, after extensive review by a number of current and retired research leaders. It is to be used as a guide to provide leads for more detailed historical studies of regional research and major broad research topics to be conducted during the next few years. It is also valuable as a brief informational review for all Forest Service research personnel. Copies have been sent to the regional Experiment Stations and to research staff offices in Washington headquarters. A few Station histories have been written, several are in progress, and others are planned.

5. An Interview with Dr. Richard E. McArdle, the Former Chief, U.S. Forest Service, 1953-62. This is a transcribed and bound collection of taped interviews conducted by Elwood Maunder, executive director, Forest History Society, during 1973-74, under the sponsorship of the Forest Service. It is part of a planned series with major leaders of the agency, designed to disclose the background of major policy developments and struggles. Dr. McArdle served as Assistant Chief for State and Private Forestry before becoming Chief, and previously had directed research in three sections of the country.

During his term, major efforts were devoted to needed improvement and expansion of National Forest recreation facilities, a comprehensive long-range plan for overall development of the Forests, to securing legislation endorsing the Forest Service's long-term management policies for multiple-use, sustained-yield and wilderness preservation, to conducting nationwide timber resource surveys, and to revision of the obsolete mining laws. The long intermittent struggle conducted by several previous Chiefs to regulate the harvesting of timber on privately owned lands by Federal action was ended by McArdle, thus relying on cooperation and persuasion with the timber industry, and leaving regulatory laws to the various States which by then had begun to act. As a result of 10-year and long-range plans for the National Forests prepared during his term and submitted to Congress through the President, substantial increases were provided annually by Congress.

The History Office has on hand for loan to Forest Service personnel or retirees two copies each of the interviews on multiple use made by the Forest History Society under contract a few years ago. Those interviewed were Edward Crafts and Hamilton Pyles, both former Deputy Chiefs for Programs and Legislation; V. L. Harper, former Deputy Chief for Research; Earl Pierce, former head of Cooperative Forest Fire Protection; Frederick Grover, former director of Lands and of Land Classification Divisions, Washington Office; and Herbert Stone, former Regional Forester, Pacific Northwest Region.

The Forest History Society has reprinted The Biltmore Story (originally published in 1955 by the Minnesota Historical Society), as Birth of Forestry in America: Biltmore Forest School 1898-1913, with a new introduction by John R. McGuire, Chief, Forest Service. This book was written by Carl Schneck, a German forester who succeeded Gifford Pinchot in managing the forest on the Biltmore estate of William Vanderbilt

near Asheville, NC. The Appalachian Consortium cooperated with the Society in the publication. Both paperback and hardcover are available.

The Society has also reprinted (in paperback) C. Raymond Clar's Out of the River Mist, and has printed a new illustrated booklet by W. H. Hutchinson, California Heritage, about pine logging in northern California. Clar was Deputy Chief Forester for the State of California, and Hutchinson is professor of history at California State University at Chico. . . The Society has recently issued an attractive comprehensive illustrated catalog of books on the history of logging, forestry and conservation which is of special value to Forest Service people. Most of the 180 titles listed can be ordered through the Society, and members get a 10 percent discount, including books published elsewhere. The catalog is free to members (who also receive the quarterly Journal of Forest History), and $1 to nonmembers. Some of the books available through the Society are:

Robert K. Winters' The Forest and Man, about forests and their relationships with past and present civilizations. . .A new biography of Aldo Leopold, by Susan Flader, Thinking Like a Mountain. . .Harold Pinkett's Gifford Pinchot: Private and Public Forester. . . Pinchot's Breaking New Ground and The Fight for Conservation (University of Washington Press reprints) . . . Mike Frome's The Forest Service and Battle for the Wilderness. (The former a surprisingly balanced book, while the latter is in his crusading spirit.). . . Tucker and Fitzpatrick's Men Who Matched the Mountains. (A history of the Southwestern Region, Forest Service.). . . Charles Peterson's Look to the Mountains (A history of southeastern Utah and the LaSal National Forest.). . . Forests for the Future: the Story of Sustained Yield. (Interview with David T. Mason.). . .Mills and Markets: A History of the Pacific Coast Lumber Industry to 1900, by Thomas R. Cox. . . The Enemy is Fire by Charles Cowan. . . The Great American Forest by Rutherford Platt. . . Blazing Forest Trails by Charles Simpson and E. R. Jackman. . . Oral History for the Local Historical Society by Willa K. Baum. . . Forests and Seapower by Robert Albion. . . Also, the American West series and the Praeger Series on Federal Departments and Agencies.

In connection with the 50th anniversary of the Gila Wilderness in New Mexico, the University of New Mexico Press has published Wilderness of the Gila by Elizabeth McFarland, a 75-page illustrated booklet of reminiscences of oldtimers. Her husband, George, was administrative assistant to supervisors of the Prescott, Carson and Gila National Forests for many years.

Several National Forests are getting their historical records in order and writing or updating their histories. . . A history of the Boise is being written by Mrs. Don Smith, who also wrote one of the Salmon NF. . . A history of the Wenatchee is being written by Bernice G. Greene, who has been conducting numerous taped interviews with oldtimers. Eleanor Childers has been organizing the historical files of the Los Padres NF. Its history has recently been brought up to date. . . Warren R. "Chuck" Peterson, a FS retiree, is collecting materials and conferring with other retirees to prepare a history of the Kaniksu NF, under the Volunteers in the National Forests program. . . D. R. Progulska of South Dakota has compiled a pictorial history of the Black Hills: Yellow Ore, Yellow Hair, Yellow Pine, aided by Cameron Ferweda and others of Black Hills NF. The Forest is cooperating with the Wyoming Historical Society and four county societies.

Clifford Owsley, former History Officer for the Forest Service, retired May 30.

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